Programmes of DD and AIR

305. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendra and All India Radio are producing regular programmes including song, music and news bulletin in all recognized Indian languages;

(b) whether programmes in some languages, which are recognized by the State but not by the Centre, are also produced in regular or casual manner; and

(c) if so, the details of the nature of programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that All India Radio broadcasts programmes in all 22 scheduled languages and 146 dialects to meet the communication needs of listeners of the country. These broadcasts comprise spoken word programmes , News and Music programmes. Special audience programmes for women, youth, children, farm and home etc. are produced in different formats. Doordarshan Kendras/channels are telecasting programmes in different formats in all scheduled languages. Currently, news bulletins are not telecast in Konkani, Nepali, Sindhi, Bodo, Maithili and Santhali. Some Doordarshan Kendras are also telecasting programmes in different formats in Bhojpuri, Ladakhi, Tulu, Rajasthani, Haryanavi, Kokborok, Mizo and Himachali. Specific information of various languages/dialects recognized by the States is not maintained by Prasar Bharati.

Increase in number of notaries in Kerala

309. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has sought the sanction to enhance the number of notaries, considering the special circumstances prevailing in the State;

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the number of notaries, as requested; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Rent-Free connections by BSNL

312. SHRI LALITSURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has made all the landline connections rent-free;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether the same facility is proposed to be provided by MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) MTNL Delhi has introduced 1+1 scheme under which a subscriber having MTNL landline connection for more than six months, can have one rent-free second landline telephone connection for three yeas. There is no proposal to introduce this scheme in Mumbai.

Nuns as Lawyers

314. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka High Court has ordered that Nuns cannot be lawyers;'

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Nuns are eligible to acquire a degree in law;